

**CITY OF MIAMI BEACH**  
**Office of the City Manager**  
**Letter to Commission No. \_\_\_\_\_**



**To:** Mayor David Dermer and  
Members of the City Commission

**Date:** April 7, 2004

**From:** Jorge M. Gonzalez *Jorge*  
City Manager

**Subject:** **PROSTITUTION UPDATE**

This Letter to the City Commission is to provide an update on the status of the Police Department's efforts against prostitution in the City of Miami Beach.

Prostitution continues to be a plague on the streets of Miami Beach. In recent years an attempt was made to address this situation by instituting the Prostitution Mapping program. However, mapping program is only offered as a condition of probation and has resulted in very few prostitutes being enrolled in the program.

The first sixty days of this year had 182 prostitution arrests with Saturday night, 2/28/04, a joint prostitution detail making 54 misdemeanor arrests and 4 felony arrests. 34 of the arrests were for soliciting prostitution and 4 known pimps were arrested. The remaining arrests were for obstructing traffic for solicitation of prostitution and various crimes. Another prostitution detail was conducted on Friday night, 3/27/04 with Assistant State Attorneys participating. This resulted in 27 arrests for prostitution.

Despite the high number of prostitutes being arrested, the problem continues. In an effort to devise methods to combat this epidemic, a meeting was held on March 4, 2004 with the State Attorney, Judge Slom, Commissioner Matti Bower, City of Miami Commissioners, local business owners and representatives from the Miami Beach, Miami, and Miami-Dade Police Departments. Proposed solutions from this meeting include:

- Making the Mapping Program mandatory.
- Advising the State Attorney of the prostitute's criminal history at the bond hearing.
- Charging prostitutes as a felony if they have three or more prostitution arrests.

This group met again on April 1<sup>st</sup> with county judges. The judges were presented with the prior histories of the most frequently arrested prostitutes. Many prostitutes had been in and out of Miami-Dade County jail between 40 and 140 times. The mapping program was reviewed with the judges and stiffer sentences were requested. Since this meeting, the bond amounts issued to prostitutes have been much higher. Some of the Assistant State Attorneys have also ridden with MBPD officers during the prostitution details and are now much more familiar with the situation. Communication between the State Attorney's Office and the Police Department has also improved greatly.